

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-25. (Canceled).

26. (Previously presented) A computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions, comprising:

receiving an offer from a customer for a product, the product being subject to a criterion;

calculating a first value, based on the offer, above which a quote for the product is not economically desirable;

calculating a second value based on the offer that reflects a desired margin;

obtaining from a plurality of suppliers at least one-quote for the product, each quote including a price at which a corresponding supplier is prepared to provide the product and including a rating associated with the criterion of the particular product quoted by the corresponding supplier;

discarding from the plurality of suppliers those suppliers that do not provide a quote below the first value;

for those suppliers for which the one quote falls between the first value and the second value, ranking each supplier in the plurality of suppliers based on one quote provided by the suppliers, wherein the suppliers are ranked based on the price associated with the one quote provided by the suppliers;

for those suppliers for which the one quote falls below the second value, ranking each supplier based on the one quote provided, wherein the suppliers are ranked based upon the criterion; and

matching the offer with a most-preferentially ranked supplier.

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27. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 26, further comprising negotiating a purchase of the product by the customer from the most-preferentially ranked supplier.

28. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 26, wherein the first value corresponds to the value of the offer adjusted for transactional costs associated with a purchase of the product.

29. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 26, wherein the second value corresponds to the value of the offer adjusted for transactional costs associated with a purchase of the product plus a desired profit..

30. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 26, wherein the criterion is a quality of the product quoted by a particular supplier.

31. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 26, further comprising:  
for those suppliers for which the one quote provided is below the second value, ranking those suppliers based first on the rating associated with the product being quoted by the supplier and based second on the price associated with the product.

32-37. (Canceled)

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